

SCORE,

Sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration

Service Corps of Retired Executives Association

**“Counselors to America’s
Small Business”**

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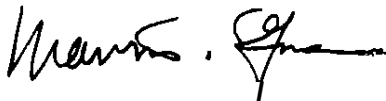
February 27, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, S.W. CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch;

Re: Application by Verizon Maryland, Verizon Washington, DC and Verizon West Virginia for Authorization to Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in States of Maryland, Washington, DC., and West Virginia. WC Docket No 02-384.

SCORE (Counselors to America’s Small Business) encourages the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to grant approval of Verizon’s application to provide long distance service to consumers in Maryland. SCORE has 7 chapters in Maryland, with approximately 225 volunteers. We believe the elimination of government restrictions on telephone service **will** lead to greater competition, better service and reduced costs. Our chapters **will** benefit directly.



Marvin Elfman
District Director of Maryland